In The Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A surgically implantable adjustable ring for constricting a tubular organ, the adjustable ring comprising:

an open ring body having a closure system including a first and a second end parts, the open ring body being designed to be closed around the tubular organ;

the closure system constricting the tubular organ by closing the ring and forming the ring into a loop; and

the first end part including a first reinforcement flange and a sleeve having a first and a second portions and defining a first aperture and a second aperture disposed substantially parallel to the first aperture, the sleeve being designed to receive the second end part, the sleeve being disposed in a substantially perpendicular direction in relation to the direction of the first end part, the second part comprising a locking protrusion adapted to engage [[an]] and fill the first aperture in the sleeve, thereby securing the ring in a closed position;

wherein the second aperture remains substantially unfilled when the ring is in a closed position.

2. (Currently Amended) The adjustable ring according to claim 1, wherein the second portion of the sleeve defines the second aperture, and wherein the second portion of the sleeve partially overlaps the second part when the ring is in the closed position.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) A surgically implantable adjustable ring for constricting a tubular organ, the adjustable ring comprising:

an open ring body having closure system including a first and a second end parts, the open ring body being designed to be closed around the tubular organ;

the closure system constricting the tubular organ by closing the ring and forming the ring into a loop; and

the first end part including a first reinforcement flange and a sleeve having a first and a second portions, the sleeve being designed to receive the second end part and having a tab extending from the second portion, the sleeve being disposed in a substantially perpendicular direction in relation to the direction of the first end part, the second part comprising a locking protrusion adapted to engage [[an]]a first aperture in the sleeve, thereby securing the ring in a closed position;

wherein the tab defines a second aperture disposed substantially parallel to the first aperture and includes a second reinforcement flange located adjacent to and in between the first aperture and the second aperture ~~comprises a portion more flexible than the remaining portion of the tab, the flexible portion being situated in the proximity of the aperture, the flexible portion preventing an accidental opening of the closure system after the adjustable ring is disposed around the tubular organ~~.

6. (Currently Amended) The adjustable ring according to claim 5, further comprising a portion more flexible than the remaining portion of the tab, the flexible portion being situated in the proximity of the second aperture ~~wherein said flexible portion comprises an opening~~.

7. (Previously Presented) The adjustable ring according to claim 1, wherein the first reinforcement flange is disposed transversally to the external perimeter of the ring.

8. (Previously Presented) The adjustable ring according to claim 1 further comprising a second reinforcement flange adjacent the aperture.

9. (Currently Amended) The adjustable ring according to claim 1 wherein the ring is made of a biocompatible elastomeric material.

10. (Previously Presented) The adjustable ring according to claim 5 wherein the first reinforcement flange is disposed transversally to the external perimeter of the ring.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) The adjustable ring according to claim 5 ~~claim 11~~ wherein the ring is made of a biocompatible elastomeric material.

13. (Currently Amended) A closure system comprising:

an open ring body;

a first end part including:

a sleeve having a first portion;

a second portion defining an aperture; and

a third portion defining a tab hole and including a tab, the second portion positioned between the first and third portions; and

~~one or more~~ a first reinforcement flange ~~flanges~~ positioned at the first portion ~~one or more of the first, second and third portions~~;

a second reinforcement flange disposed adjacent to and in between the aperture and the tab hole; and

a second end part comprising a locking element protruding therefrom, the first and second end parts positioned at opposite ends of the ring body;

wherein the tab hole remains substantially unfilled when the closure system is in a closed position.

14. (Currently Amended) The closure system according to claim 13 wherein the second end part and at least one of the portions of the first end part are substantially perpendicular to one another~~, and the second end part includes a locking protrusion engageable with the aperture defined by the second portion~~.

15. (Previously Presented) The closure system according to claim 13 wherein the tab hole has adjacent sides and a side reinforcement flange is positioned at each of the adjacent sides.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) The closure system according to claim 13 further comprising adjusting means to adjust the ring body diameter.

19. (Previously Presented) The closure system according to claim 18 wherein the adjusting means is a wire.

20. (Previously Presented) The closure system of claim 13 wherein the tab is made of a flexible material.

21. (Previously Presented) The closure system of claim 20 wherein the tab comprises a portion more flexible than the remaining portion of the tab, the flexible portion being situated in the proximity of the aperture.